



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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Two Wayne County companies enroll in Indiana@Work

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that more than \$16,000 has been committed through Indiana@Work, the state’s new workforce development initiative, to benefit two Wayne County companies and their workers.

Administered through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Richmond’s **Land O’Lakes/Purina Mills LLC** and **MasterBrand Cabinets Inc.** received a combined \$16,804 to assess the skills of up to 315 workers and profile five different job categories.

“The Indiana@Work program is another tool to help Hoosier businesses identify and increase the skill level of their workforce, and we are excited that well-known companies like Land O’Lakes/Purina Mills and MasterBrand Cabinets are taking part,” Kernan said. “By continually investing in new training for our workers, our companies and communities across the state will be in an even better position to compete.”

Land O’Lakes/Purina Mills LLC is utilizing \$6,324 from Indiana@Work to assess the skills of up to 15 people in order to fill five job openings. Along with the skills assessments, the company will profile its forklift operator, packer operator and skilled mill operator positions. Founded in 1894, Purina Mills has grown to become the largest animal nutrition producer and distributor in the United States. Its product line includes a complete line of commercial animal products, as well as a line of horse, companion animal and specialty animal products under numerous, well-known brand names such as Omolene, Equine Senior, Lean Generation, Impact, Ultimate EXT and Layena. Purina has a nationwide network of production facilities, including the Richmond facility, which employs 72 people who manufacture specialty animal food.

“The skills assessments allow us to objectively evaluate the proficiency of future job applicants abilities through the job profile,” said plant manager Jeremey Herlyn. “More importantly, if additional training is needed, we can more readily identify those gaps and develop training programs to make the individual and our company more competitive.”

As the second largest North American cabinet manufacturer, **MasterBrand Cabinets Inc.** is looking to expand its Richmond operations. The company, which currently employs more than 12,000 people, has requested job profiles of its production associates and customer service representatives. In addition, the \$10,480 dedicated by Indiana@Work will provide skills assessments for 300 people to fill potential job openings over the next few years. The company’s product lines include Aristokraft, Decorá, Diamond, Kemper, NHB, and Schrock. MasterBrand also manufactures fine furniture for bathrooms and kitchens.

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Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 400 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys® skill assessments, a comprehensive testing system developed by ACT® that identifies an individual's skill level, are the centerpiece of Indiana@Work. Based on the assessment scores, the next step is to match individuals with available jobs that require similar skills. The program also offers financial support to fill in any skill gaps through training.

Job profiling, the employer segment of Indiana@Work, helps businesses identify skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with existing staff to define the duties and skills needed to perform in each occupation and together they create specific job profiles. Those profiles are then used in the hiring and placement process.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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